

**Notes on the Intergovernmental Summit
August 21, 1998
University of Utah**

Sponsored by the Utah Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations (UACIR) and the Center for Public Policy and Administration (CPPA)

Master of Ceremony: **Mark Bedel**, UACIR Executive Director

Welcoming Remarks: **Mayor Chesley Christiansen**, Chair UACIR
J. Steven Ott, Education Director, CPPA

Key note:

Ted Stewart, Chief of Staff to the Governor of Utah, discussed the role of state government as it relates to the federal government and the local government. He stressed the importance of following process to avoid unpleasant consequences such as the Grand Staircase-Escalante NM designation in 1996 which was accomplished without state or local input. He warned about the role of creeping federalism, where the national government mandates decisions on issues that are clearly local/state.

Speakers: The Public Policy Roles of State and Local Governments in Utah: The Theoretical Context

Robert Hueffner: Using the Federalist Papers as a guide, he discussed the need for a wide audience when creating public policy. The reason being, without a diverse and large population making decisions, a majority can become a tyranny by overruling the minority every time. He stated that government must never lose sight of the people whom they represent.

Doyle Buckwalter: Discussed overall complexity of state and local government relationships. He suggested through visual aides the need to simplify those relationships. If people do not understand the meaning and purpose of government they will not be involved with the process.

Panel 1: How State and Local Governments Work on Mutual Issue: The Practical Context in the Urban Setting:

Moderator: **Ted Wilson**

Panelists:

Senator **Millie Peterson**: Discussed traffic problems created by lack of coordination between road dept. and gas company in implementing street construction activities. She suggested reducing duplication. "Don't inconvenience people beyond tolerance." She also emphasized that all space does not need to be subdivided and that exclusionary zoning should no longer be allowed, rather every local entity should have to create low income housing.

County Commissioner **Gary Herbert**: Discussed coordination between Utah County and Utah Valley State College for building a mutual facility. It solved problems for both and saved \$60-70,000,000. There needs to be more cooperation of this sort among varying governments and organizations. However, there is a need for healthy tension between bordering governments: a feeling of urgency to complete a task or job. If the tension becomes unhealthy there is the potential for abuse of power. For example, a county that is older, bigger, and stronger than a municipality can impose its wishes, or ignore entirely the wishes of its neighbors. He illustrated his point by citing the personal example of he and his younger brother. If his brother got out of line, then he could just bop him and bring him right back into conformance with his wishes.

Mayor Tom Dolan: Discussed the coordination of municipalities for parks and recreation facilities on the border of communities. “We are at a point in time when we have to cooperate or Utah will no longer be a great place to live.” Boundaries of city shouldn’t limit services to citizens. For example, Midvale - Sandy cooperated on a park that was needed for citizens of both municipalities.

Vicki Varela: Discussed the efforts made by both the State and Davis County to build a road to Antelope Island. “People don’t notice collaboration” they just enjoy the space. She also discussed the 40-40-20 Rule of successful policy implementation. The rule states that successful policy is 40% What you do, 40% Packaging (how you sell it to the public), 20% who you tell.

Mike Christiansen: In response to the example cited earlier, noted that upon receiving a “bop” to keep him in line, his younger brother appealed to a higher authority - mom and dad - and successfully changed the relationship. Likewise, smaller governments that are being pushed around by larger ones can change the trend by going to a higher source, i.e. state or federal governments. This however, can have a negative effect on efforts to create an interlocal agreement between the two sides.

Panel 2: How State and Local Governments Work on Mutual Issues: The Practical context in the Rural Setting.

Moderator: **Craig Bott**

Panelists:

Wes Curtis: In the case of the creation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument the benefits of state involvement were evident as officials from the State organized meetings and forums where locals could gather to discuss the pros and cons of the monument. Eventually, they began meeting on their own, and have been using the state for support when meeting with federal officials. Many times in smaller communities, the local government does not have the ability or means to provide adequate planning, therefore, it is essential that the state provide support.

Speaker of the House, **Mel Brown**: The state budget has tripled in 12 years. The state should provide/allow communities tools to become what they want to be. He also warned those who

advocate state planning and funding of planning efforts that if the state pays the bills, it will also write the rules.

County Commissioner **Mark Maryboy**: Discussed the difficulties of coordinating the wishes of a sovereign nation (Navajo Nation) and a county commission. He also discussed cultural differences and how that adds complexity to managing a county government.

County Commissioner **Jerry B. Lewis**: Discussed the rapid urbanization of Washington County, Utah and the conflicts between development and maintaining the status quo. He mentioned the problems that local governments have when working with other levels of government. He cited an example when he called on the Federal government to advise the county on the best method of approaching PCBs in power lines. The federal agency came to look at problem. Then, rather than offer assistance or advice, they fined the community. With Inter-local agreements everyone is a vested player.

City Councilperson **Lou Mueller**: Discussed the regulatory and mandate role of the Federal Government in being more willing to provide sanctions rather than help. She illustrated this with an example from Blanding, where Blanding City invited the EPA to review the city's efforts at meeting federal regulations and mandate. Instead of assistance from the EPA, they received a sanction.

Luncheon

Local personalities **Rolly and Wells** provided lighthearted and entertaining humor for the group during their lunch hour presentation. They told of experiences that they had while working in government and how they have dealt with the problems and circumstances that have occurred throughout the years.

Ted Wilson summed up the summit. He described a summit as a coming together at a high vantage point for the purpose of discussing and sharing wisdom. He felt the day's sessions had accomplished this. He did caution against the continued urban-rural split in Utah.